

RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY STUDY

Water Users Meetings

The opportunity for questions from the audience was provided at the end of each meeting. The following questions and comments were received during the meetings.

Question: Does industrial use include irrigation?

Question: Does the Needs & Option Report build on Phase I or start from scratch?

Question: Did the Phase 1 study look at irrigation?

Question: Do any of the surrounding states or Canada have any input on what is to be studied?

Question: How much correlation is there with the Corps' Devils Lake EIS report?

Question: Given negative population trends and the possibility of that continuing or reversing at some point, is it fair to have the cities forward some type of reasonably optimistic project for their population projection?

Concern: Continued development of irrigation permits needs to be taken into account during the study.

Question: Will there be competition between the study project and individual irrigators?

Question: Will water from the Missouri River be treated?

Question: How are the projects such as building a reservoir at Kindred and environmental type issues going to be addressed?

Concern: How is a reasonable solution arrived at that meets the needs of those involved when everything seems to need to be black and white?

Concern: Would like to have more flexibility in the process so an amicable solution can be found. Consultants would like to work with Reclamation.

Comment: Very impressed with the Reclamation's neutrality.

Question: How will aquifer recharge be integrated, if at all, into the study?

Concern: Has any discussion taken place regarding the collection of data and a way to standardize it prior to receiving the information and the possibility of the use of a "form" to initiate gathering that data.

Question: Is an alternative similar to Northwest Area Water Supply or Southwest Pipeline Project a possibility?

Question: If you are not on the Study Review Team or Technical Team can you attend the meetings?

Question: Are you looking at aquifer recharge?

Question: When do the Study Review Team and Technical Team meet?

Comment: Need to explain that even though an earlier study has been done, it was at an appraisal level with only a limited amount of data. Therefore it is valid to do another, but more in depth study using data from both wet and dry cycles in order to get a better picture of potential future conditions.

Question: Where are we going to get the water if a drought were to occur within a couple of years? Is anything being done as a contingency for an extended drought period?

Comment: Since the biota issue has been “solved” for the Northwest Area Water Supply project it would seem that the same measures would work for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

Comment: The study is to be based on the 1930’s drought but perhaps a drought of an even greater magnitude may be worth looking at.

Comment: Perhaps we need to look at some project that could be phased so as to meet short-term needs and build the remaining project at later times.

Question: Do we currently have the technology to treat biota?

Question: Is biota an issue with Minnesota and Canada?

Question: Will the study be completed by 2005 and implementation by 2012?

Comment/Question: The Garrison Diversion Project was built (initial phases) but after 40 years nothing has been completed. Is the same thing going to happen with this project?

Question: When will this project be implemented?

Question: Who is going to have to pay for this project?

Question: Is irrigation involved in those activities to be studied?

Comment: Grand Forks Traill Rural Water spokesman mentioned that their analysis says they will be short of water in 25 years.

Question: How big are the ring dikes mentioned in the alternatives?

Question: Can any other of the other states affect what is done, or how we use the water?

Question: Any cost estimates for the “big” pipeline?

Comment: They are tired of studies and waiting. They are going to be more aggressive with both state and federal agencies to get something accomplished.

Question: Is there a true possibility of completing this study by 2005?

Comment: Encourage utilization of things already done.

Comment: Seems you are already beyond the 2005 date base upon your current time lines.

Question: How are the Minnesota cities going to be handled?

Comment: Irresponsible not to include the border cities, such as Moorhead, and East Grand Forks.

Question: How are industrial needs going to be addressed?

Comment: It seems that ring dikes may be a problem in a number of ways including engineering, environmental, etc.

Comment: The 1930's drought seems to be short –sighted to think that there isn't a worse case scenario that should be looked at.

Comment: The 1930's is a good start, but you may want to look further.

Comment: A one-day flow data is needed vs 30-day currently being looked at.

Question: Is the data on the website that will be used for the 50 year projection?

Question: Who would control the water put into Ashtabula?

Comment: Alternative 7a-d does not address what would happen if a Devils Lake Outlet were in place.

Question: Is Reclamation working with the Corps at all, since they both deal with the same area?

Question: Both groups should have cost estimates for the cities downstream of the Devils Lake outlet, right?

Question: What are the costs to those on the Sheyenne River going to be for a Devils Lake Outlet?

Comment: A dam was proposed in the Kindred area about 30 years ago and it was met with great opposition.

Question: Are any Minnesota sources of water being considered?

Question: Are there any impoundment structures being looked at for the area south of Wahpeton?

Question: Is this part of a study the Corps is currently working on?

Question: Are more rural water systems being developed around the state?

Question: Will the new water systems and/or existing systems going to be facing a future need for water?

Comment: It seems some of the inter-basin alternatives will be moot, if Canada doesn't want them. They have expressed concerns in the past and it would be good to work with them instead of just forcing this upon them.

Question: How big are the ring dikes?

Question: How big would they need to be?

Question: What about places like Dead Colt Creek? Would they work for storage?

Question: If the Sheyenne River is used, how does a Devils Lake Outlet affect things?

Question: Wasn't Kindred Dam looked at before? Wasn't it a big problem then?

Question: Wasn't the 5-ft raise to Baldhill Dam only for flood control?

Question: Is the proposed 11-ft. raise at Baldhill Dam over and above what the reservoir is currently at?

Question: Is this study going to address flood issues?

Question: How are you going to acquire 3,000 acres of prime farmland to build ring dikes?

Comment: Obviously building in coulees on the fringe of the Red River Valley on pastureland would be much cheaper.

Question: What about bringing treated water to the valley by putting a treatment plant in instead of biota treatment plant?

Comment: It would seem that treated water would be of greater benefit than raw water.

Comment: One larger treatment plant makes more sense than several smaller ones.

Question: Where is the money coming from?